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Executive Director

April 6, 2010

Senator Charles Schumer
313 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Architect of the Capitol

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of the 7,000 members of the New York State component of the American Institute of Architects, I write to ask you to support the nomination of Stephen Ayers, AIA, as the next Architect of the Capitol. After an extensive search process, President Obama has nominated Mr. Ayers to fill this important post. Mr. Ayers possesses the qualities and characteristics necessary to be a successful steward of the US Capitol Complex, and I urge you to support his nomination when it comes before the Committee on Rules and Administration.

For the past three years, Mr. Ayers has served as the Acting Architect of the Capitol. Under his leadership, the office of the Architect has carefully balanced the multi-faceted and often competing responsibilities of maintaining the facilities under its purview, ensuring they are safe and secure places to visit while allowing the important business of the Legislative and Judicial Branches to continue.

Over the next ten years, the Architect of the Capitol will be called upon to manage a nearly fifteen million square foot campus, oversee major renovations to existing historic structures, improve the energy efficiency of the complex, enhance the security of the Capitol and its occupants and improve working conditions for legislators and their staffs. At the same time, the Architect of the Capitol must integrate all of these functions into some of the most historically cherished buildings in our Republic. As demonstrated by his tenure as the Acting Architect of the Capitol and throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Ayers clearly possesses the qualifications to lead the office of the Architect of the Capitol throughout the next decade.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of Mr. Ayers' confirmation as the next Architect of the Capitol.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Farrell
Executive Director